

**REMARKS OF SEEMA M. SINGH, ESQ.
RATEPAYER ADVOCATE
PRESENTED BY BADRHN M. UBUSHIN, ESQ.
DEPUTY RATEPAYER ADVOCATE
NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF THE RATEPAYER ADVOCATE**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE AMENDED PETITION OF ATLANTIC CITY
ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR A DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO THE
PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 40:55D-19 THAT THE USE OF CERTAIN LANDS
WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF EGG HARBOR, THE TOWNSHIP OF
GALLOWAY, AND THE CITY OF PORT REPUBLIC WITHIN THE COUNTY
OF ATLANTIC; AND WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF BASS RIVER WITHIN
THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON; AND WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF
LITTLE EGG HARBOR, TOWNSHIP OF EAGLESWOOD, TOWNSHIP OF
STAFFORD, TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, TOWNSHIP OF OCEAN,
TOWNSHIP OF LACEY WITHIN THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, ALL IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ARE REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR THE
SERVICE, CONVENIENCE OR WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC; AND THAT THE
ZONING AND LAND USE ORDINANCES OF THOSE MUNICIPALITIES AND
COUNTIES SHALL HAVE NO APPLICATION THERETO.**

BPU Docket No. EE02080521

**Public Hearing
Pomona, Galloway Township, New Jersey
February 10, 2004
5:00 p.m.**

Good evening. My name is Badrhn M. Ubushin, Deputy Ratepayer Advocate for the State of New Jersey. I am pleased to be here to express the Ratepayer Advocate's continuing concern regarding better energy reliability for New Jersey residents and, particularly, the Jersey Shore communities. As you know, the Ratepayer Advocate has the statutory duty to represent the interests of all classes of utility consumers in New Jersey, residential, small business and industrial customers, when a utility proposes a

change in rates or services. The Ratepayer Advocate wants to ensure that all utilities provide safe, adequate, and proper service at affordable rates to their customers.

The Ratepayer Advocate commends the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“BPU”) for its continued commitment to protect New Jersey consumers so that the lights are on when customers flip the switch. This steadfast commitment is evident in the investigation launched by the BPU last year into the power outages that occurred in JCP&L’s service territory over the July 4th holiday weekend, as well as outages that occurred in Atlantic City Electric’s service territory shortly thereafter.

The Ratepayer Advocate recognizes that reliability of our electric transmission and distribution systems in New Jersey needs to be carefully analyzed on many different levels to protect the health, safety and well-being of our citizens as well as the health of our State’s economy.

In its Amended Petition dated January 21, 2004, Atlantic City Electric proposes a revised siting plan for construction of a 230-kilovolt transmission line to replace and update an existing transmission line that has been in place for approximately 60 years. This new transmission line would utilize existing right-of-ways and also establish new ones.

The Ratepayer Advocate was briefed on the new construction plan two weeks ago by the BPU technical advisor, Schoor DePalma, and is undertaking a detailed review to determine if the revised plan is the best way to deliver reliable electricity to the affected communities. While we realize that a new line is necessary to deliver reliable power, we must balance this need with the most economical manner in which to deliver the electricity to the Shore area.

The length of the proposed transmission line has been reduced from about 64 miles to about 46 miles. We also understand that Atlantic City Electric Company will be, wherever possible, matching the existing conditions, including pole heights for the installation of this transmission line. Our office is conducting a complete investigation of the Company's request, and we have retained the services of an expert consultant to assist us in our review. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has the authority to make the final decision regarding the utility's request.

The purpose of this hearing is for you, the customer, to voice your opinion, relate your experiences, and offer comments about the proposed transmission line. Reliability is paramount; however, this request is complicated because of the many crucial issues that must be considered that are important to the residents of this area, including issues of property rights, historical preservation, and environmental impact. It is important that you express your views so they may become part of the record on which the Board of Public Utilities will make its decision. The Ratepayer Advocate also needs to hear your views. Your active participation is strongly encouraged to help in our evaluation of the Company's proposals.

This hearing is being transcribed and your comments will become part of the record. I would like to reiterate the importance of your participation so that the Ratepayer Advocate can have a clear record of your concerns and interests.

On behalf of the Ratepayer Advocate, thank you for attending tonight's hearing.